

# Pseudointensionality and the English Progressive

Gillian Ramchand

In this talk, I argue that: (i) from a syntactic point of view the English progressive is formed in the lowest phase of the symbolic computation (see also Harwood 2014); (ii) from a psycholinguistic point of view it is processed at the internal conceptual level not at the grammatical/framing level (in the terms of Bock and Levelt 1994); and (iii) from a formal semantic point of view it is misleading to employ the device of possible worlds to describe its truth conditions (contra Dowty 1979, Landman 1991 inter alia).

Instead I propose a compositional treatment of the *ing*-participle plus *be* auxiliary that does better justice to the syntactic and semantic meaning layering that is robustly typologically evidenced in natural language systems.